



THEODORE HARRIS, Editor

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TODAY'S THOUGHT Idleness and pride tax with a heavier hand than kings and parliaments. If we can get rid of the former, we may easily bear the latter. Franklin.

SLANDERING VIRGINIA

Virginia is receiving advice from other states quite freely in her present gubernatorial campaign. But like all gratuitous counsel it is for the most part worthless. First comes the president of the United States, and so far descends from the lofty duties of his office, as to write a letter to the publicity director of a local Republican Club, and complain of the small vote in the Virginia state elections. He expatiates on the duty of the citizen to vote, and laments the dereliction of Virginians in this direction. President Harding has evidently overlooked the short comings of the electorate of his own state. With a beam in his own eye he sees only the mote in his neighbor's. Can he be ignorant of the fact that in 1920, the year of his own election, no fewer than 856,138 white voters in Ohio failed to exercise their franchise? Nearly a million men and women did not go to the polls at all. It would seem that Ohio is likewise in need of missionary work in reforming the electorate, and this work, not unlike charity, should by all means begin at home.

And now comes ex-senator Marion Butler, from North Carolina, and for over an hour stands before an Alexandria audience, and belabors and abuses Virginia, calls her harsh names, and reviles her manhood and womanhood. Nor is this all! The scurrilous abuse—the more biting the epithet—the louder the applause, the more raucous the laughter! Be it remembered, these were Virginia Republicans.

Marion Butler, if we remember rightly, was hoisted into the United States Senate on a populist wave that was sweeping over the country at that particular time. Promised laws that would remedy all existing evils, from whooping-cough to low prices for corn, the farmers in many states, thoroughly disgusted with Republican misrule, voted blindly for anything that promised a change. In some instances, like that of Senator Marion Butler, for example, they got their change—but found it for the worse instead of better. Nor were they deluded a second time.

Senator Butler harped mainly on two strings the other night, in Alexandria: illiteracy in Virginia, and the small vote of the electorate.

Let us take the voting question first. North Caro-

lina, like Ohio, was a hopeless sinner in this very identical matter. In 1920, she had 356,136 white voters who did not deem it a duty to go to the polls. Let Mr. Butler attend to the knitting in his own state before he goes on a stump-speaking tour to reform his neighbors!

The fact is, and both Mr. Harding and Mr. Butler should know it, and probably do know it, this apparent lack of interest in the electoral franchise is a national failing, prevalent in every state in the union. Strong efforts are being made in Virginia, and many other states to remedy this, and as the years go on, doubtless the people will be aroused to the danger of lax voting or the failure to vote at all! The Virginia Association for the Common Good, a body of public-spirited citizens with headquarters at Richmond, is doing admirable work in this direction, and the Gazette had an editorial not long since commenting on their timely efforts.

To say that the paucity of vote in Virginia is due to the Democratic Party, is as silly and absurd as it is utterly groundless.

Now for illiteracy in Virginia, which concerns Mr. Butler so deeply, and causes him to weep copious tears and raise his hands to high heaven in strenuous and prayerful utterance.

Illiteracy all over the South is greater than in the northern and western states; even illiteracy among the whites. But when it is remembered that the South staggered under a burden until well into the eighties, far greater than the Germans and their allies are now enduring, her progress is little short of amazing, and we venture to say no other people under the sun would have recuperated so quickly, or fought with such indomitable will and dogged perseverance. We go further, and say that the next fifty years will see her in the lead in many things, education foremost among them. This, too, because she has the old Anglo-Saxon strain purest and least adulterated. The race that first settled this country, that wrote the Declaration of Independence, and founded and maintained the mightiest Republic of history. Virginia is as alert to educational needs as any state in the union today. The state Republican Platform on Education is but a re-hash of the Democratic State Education Commission's report, which it stole boldly and bodily.

But why does Senator Marion Butler come into Virginia and belittle our schools and deplore our illiteracy? We have not the new figures as yet as to present illiteracy in North Carolina, but in 1910, her total illiteracy for those over 10 years of age was 18.5 per cent, against Virginia's 15.2 per cent; this latter figure having decreased to 11.2 in 1920. Virginia today has a total enrollment in the High Schools of 6.1 per cent against 2.8 per cent for North Carolina. She has a school term of 141 days against her neighbor's 123 days. She has 15,904 teachers against 15,241 in North Carolina. She pays them an average salary of \$385, against \$284 in Marion But-

ler's state. She has a value of \$39.20 in school property for each child enrolled, as against \$22.55 in North Carolina. Her permanent school fund per pupil enrolled is 7 times as great as North Carolina's. The annual cost per pupil enrolled is 15.00 for Virginia and 9.49 for North Carolina. Virginia spends for schools out of each \$100 of taxable wealth, 24.2 cents against only 21.6 for North Carolina.

In spite of these figures which demonstrate Virginia's superiority over North Carolina in educational matters, ex-Senator Marion Butler has the unspeakable effrontery to cross over the border into the historic city of Alexandria, and there traduce a great people; to say in utter slander and defamation that Virginia's taxes are used for the support of office-holders; that the men and women of the state are without sufficient education; that the present inhabitants are worse than the serfs of the countries of Europe; that they are unworthy descendants of their ancestors; and that they are like slaves under the lash of the overseer.

And to what remedy does ex-United States Senator

Marion Butler point? He asks the sons of Virginia to vote the state Republican ticket; that has in its platform a clause that advises the abolition of the "iniquitous poll tax as a prerequisite to voting and a penalty on the exercise of citizenship,"—when every dollar of this poll-tax goes to the cause of education! He glorifies the Republican Party, of which Theodore Roosevelt said in 1912: "Behind the ostensible government (at Washington) sits enthroned an invisible government, owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people."

We are constrained to say that we trust no more imported orators will be brought to Alexandria to slander Virginia and vilify her people.

COMMUNICATION

Editor Gazette:

October 22nd.

Dear Sir:

As a patron and friend of the public schools of our city, I beg space for a brief communication. The exercises given by the grades in the Alexandria High School Auditorium last Friday evening, was to say the least, a "Howling Success." Those participating showed talent and evidence of careful training, and the program would have been very much enjoyed, by the friends and patrons of the school, had not the Auditorium been jammed to suffocation.

This meeting demonstrated the need of a larger assembly hall for just such and many other occasions. We hope that the School Board will be admonished by this experience to consider the matter in planning the contemplated new building.

The writer was an interested spectator and enjoyed the program very much, notwithstanding the fact that he had to play the role of a "hot dog" in a quick lunch restaurant,—yes, more, he was not only sandwiched in between two, but was cramped on all sides, buffeted, tramped on, and tramping on others continually, and his was the common experience of nearly every one present.

Now, this is not written in any spirit of criticism or fault finding, for no one is to blame for this condition. It is simply another indication of the inadequacy of room to accommodate our growing schools—an indication of the increased interest on the part of the people in all the school's activities.

May this experience and this item be the means of starting a movement among the friends and patrons for an auditorium or assembly hall adequate for the needs of the community.

Let the Parent-Teachers' Association take this matter up and let all interested in the matter stand with them.

Respectfully, C. M. Houston.

Record Breaking Crowd at School Entertainment

It was estimated that a thousand people were present at the High School Auditorium last night. Every inch of standing room Friday was taken, the seating capacity of the hall being only three hundred and fifty.

That the program was a practical failure due to the disorder which

VOCALION RECORDS

"There's only one pal after all!"
"Stand up and sing for your father, an old time song."

No. 14230

10-inch

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A little strain of sentiment is entwined in these two new members. Ernest Hare appearing as a ballad singer and Aileen Stanley introducing, "Stand up and sing for your father, an old time song."

GEO. H. RAILING, Mgr.

318 King Street

WITH THE WISHING FAIRY
by CORINNE

A True Story About a Swan.

HERE is a small lake on Long Island on the banks of which is a fishing club. One day a member of the club presented it with a pair of white swans. For weeks Mr. and Mrs. Swan swam sedately over the surface of the peaceful little lake and were made much of by the club members, who whenever they went fishing fed them bread.

Mrs. Swan suddenly died, and though every one missed her, no one missed her quite as much as Mr. Swan, who mourned and mourned for his lost mate. For ten days he scarcely ate, and every one felt very sorry for him. Then he disappeared! All the members of the club searched for him, for they were sure that he had died of grief and that they would find his body somewhere near the lake, but he wasn't found.

Imagine the excitement at the end of six weeks when Mr. Swan flew home with a new Mrs. Swan!

After a while they built a nest of grasses and leaves in the middle of a thick bush. How carefully they had chosen the right spot for it! It was so completely hidden that the eight grayish olive eggs that Mrs. Swan laid were well protected and hatched out eight sooty gray little cygnets.

All this happened several years ago, and ever since then the club members never fail to show the swans to visitors or to tell about the Swan's six weeks absence and return. They think he had merely been searching for a wife while away, and never even dream that he had flown to the End-of-the-Earth to see Stella, the Wishing Fairy. They don't know that he told her of his troubles and of how lonesome he was and that he begged her to make his wish for a lovely new mate come true.

But that is what happened.

After Mr. Swan's visit to the End-of-the-Earth the Fairy and her four Little Brownies were grouped together on the cool moss near the magic Get Little Pools.

Stella was combing her hair with the tiny backbone of a fish that had been a present from the End-of-the-Earth Fairy, while the Brownies were gently fanning her with a dragon fly wing. She had just told them the story of Mr. Swan having flown all the way from Long Island to see her.

"Are there many different kinds of swans?" asked Pimple, who was ever so interested.

"Yes," she answered, "quite a number. There is the Wishing Swan that is also called a 'Whooper' and is found in Iceland, Lapland and northern Russia. It flies south in autumn, sometimes going as far as Africa. There is the Black Necked Swan, and several other kinds, and I must not forget the Black Swan. It is very beautiful, with its brilliant pink bill. It comes from Australia."

"Once upon a time," the little Fairy continued, "there was no such thing as a tame swan. This beautiful bird was as wild as other birds of the air; but man could not resist capturing and domesticating it."

"Later in England there was a law that no one might own a swan without the permission of the King or Queen. During this period the Swan was called a 'Bird Royal', and each one bore on its bill the mark of its owner."

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Richmond

Today and Tomorrow

Charles RAY

in

The VILLAGE SLEUTH

Ingomar

TODAY

Buck MANNING

in

THE WINDING TRAIL

Tomorrow

VINCENT SERRANO

in

"His Enemy's Daughter"

Electricity and Leisure

Listen to this:—

A recent conference of housewives was called for a certain Monday afternoon. The attendance overflowed the hall and the first speaker made a point of the fact that had this been a Monday meeting in her mother's day, not a woman would have been there. Monday was washday and Mother had no electric washer to turn out the laundry in a couple of hours!

If every woman would let electricity help with the housework there'd be more leisure for the mothers of today. With electric cleaners, washers, irons and ironing machines; with electric dishwashers and egg beaters and sewing machines, housework can be organized on the same time and labor-saving basis as man's work in office, factory or shop.

Our plan of extended payments on all appliances makes it possible for every home to have electric servants.

Alexandria County Lighting Company

"The Electric Company"

324 King Street Phone 192

again prevent the enjoyment of the exercises by the audience.

VIRGINIA.

In the Clerk's Office of the Corporation Court of the City of Alexandria, on the 7th day of October, 1921.

William Earl Grillbortzer, complainant vs. Margaret Esther Grillbortzer, defendant. In Chancery No. 1868.

MEMO. The object of this suit is to obtain for Complainant a limited divorce from the Defendant on the ground of willful and voluntary desertion and abandonment and that upon the passage of the statutory period of three years same may be merged into an absolute divorce from the bonds of matrimony; and for general relief.

It appearing by an affidavit filed in this cause that the defendant Margaret Esther Grillbortzer is a non-resident of this State: It is Ordered, That said defendant appear here within ten days after due publication of this order, and do what is necessary to protect her interest in this suit.

Davis and Budwesky, P. Q.
A Copy Teste.
NEVELL S. GREENAWAY, Clerk.
242-4wp.

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